

## REMARKS

In the application claims 1-16 remain pending. No claims have been canceled and no new claims have been added.

At this time, the applicants would like to thank Examiner Kramer for the courtesies extended during a recent phone interview wherein the prosecution history of the subject application was discussed. During that phone conversation Examiner Kramer indicated that the prosecution of the subject application would be best advanced by amending the claims to remove the alternative "if" steps. Accordingly, the claims have been amended and review of the rejection of the claims based upon Evans is respectfully requested.

As previously discussed, the claimed invention is directed to a system and method for providing product information to an on-line user. More particularly, the system and method includes a means for finding a source for a product that is specified in a search request *but is not presently included within an electronic catalog*. The system and method not only provides for the finding of a sourcing agent for a specified product but also returns to the user information about the product when found by the sourcing agent. Still further, the system and method functions to update the electronic catalog using the information that is returned to the user.

Considering now Evans, it is respectfully noted that Evans describes a medical records retrieval system in which a patient is provided with a patient id (PID). All data records related to a patient include and reference the PID. (Col. 8, lines 26-28). The medical records retrieval system also includes a patient record that cross-references the PID to pointers to data structures stored on the system that are related to a particular

patient/PID. The data structures stored within the system are captured by the system or incorporated from external sources such as digital x-ray machines. (Col. 8, lines 32-36).

To retrieve patient information, Evans describes that a patient information request is provided to the system and the system responds by attempting to find the PID for the patient record having the requested patient data. If no PID is found, the system reports an error. (Col. 9, lines 44-45). Otherwise, the system communicates the PID to the data manager which retrieves the patient record and, accordingly, the pointers to the data structures stored on the system that are related to the patient/PID. (Col. 9, lines 49-50). The system may then use the pointers to retrieve stored data related to the patient. For example, if a pointer points to data stored on an external source within the global system, the system connects to the external source to retrieve the data. (Col. 5, lines 3-8; Col. 10, line 36-Col. 11, line 9).

Based upon the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Evans does not disclose, teach, or suggest the invention claimed. In Evans, all of the data records are known to the system and, to be locatable, are assigned a PID. In Evans, because all medical records relating to a patient are known to the system and assigned a PID, the system of Evans does not and need not send an electronic request to a sourcing agent to perform a search outside of an electronic database to gather information which information is returned to the customer in an electronic message and then added to the database at Col. 10, line 18-Col. 11, line 9 as has been asserted.

In sum, it is respectfully submitted that Evans fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements recited within the claims. It is additionally respectfully submitted that modifying the system of Evans to remove reliance upon the PID, i.e., to allow for the

searching of medical records that are unknown to the system, would impermissibly alter the principle by which the system of Evans is intended to operate. It is for these reasons that it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the subject application cannot be said to be anticipated by or rendered obvious by Evans.

CONCLUSION

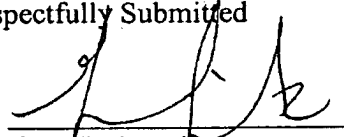
The subject application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Such action on the part of the Examiner is respectfully requested. Should it be determined, however, that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the attorney undersigned.

While it is not believed that any fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency to deposit account number 50-2428 in the name of Greenberg Traurig.

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Respectfully Submitted

By:

  
Gary R. Jarosik  
Reg. No. 35,906  
Greenberg Traurig  
77 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 2500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
(312) 456-8449

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